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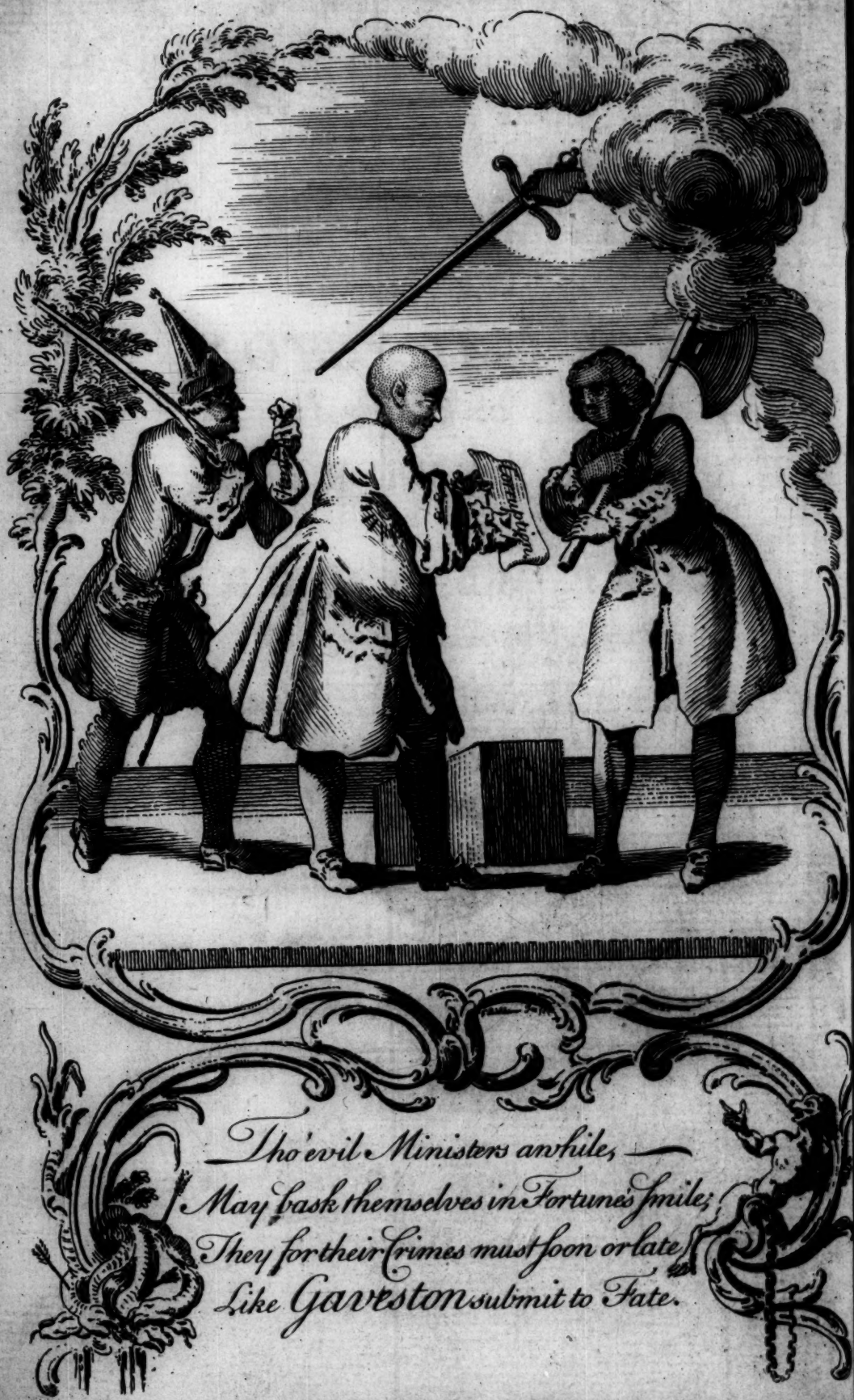
THE LIFE and DEATH OF PIERCE GAVESTON, Earl of *Cornwal*;

GRAND FAVORITE, and PRIME MINISTER

To that Unfortunate Prince,

EDWARD II. King of *England*.

[Price One Shilling.]



Tho' evil Ministers awhile,
May bask themselves in Fortune's smile;
They for their Crimes must soon or late
Like Gaveston submit to Fate.

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF *PIERCE GAVESTON*, EARL of *Cornwal*; GRAND FAVORITE, AND PRIME MINISTER

To that Unfortunate Prince,

EDWARD II. King of *England*.

WITH

POLITICAL REMARKS, by way of Caution to all Crowned Heads and Evil Ministers.

By a TRUE PATRIOT.

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

LONDON:

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THE PREFACE.

THE Subject of the following Sheets is the infamous Life and deſerved Death of PIERCE GAVESTON, that overgrown Favourite and evil Prime Miniſter to that unfortunate Prince, KING EDWARD the Second; who for his immoderate Love to him, was hated by the Nobles and deſpiſed by the Commons. In which I ſhall on-

ly mention as much of the Hiſtory of EDWARD as ſhall be neceſſary.

THIS King was an handſome, genteel Perſon, and of great Spirit, but much addicted to Luxury and an inordinate Thirſt for Riches. His greateſt Fault was, that he loved but one; for if his Love had been divided, it could not have been ſo violent: and though Love moderated be the beſt of Affections, yet the Extremity of it is the worſt of Paſſions. GAVESTON was a Man of mean Birth, conſidering the extraordinary Grandeur to which he afterwards arrived; of a baſe, daſtardly Soul, a Slave to

Ambition

Ambition and Avarice, to the Attainment of which, he would not ſtick at the moſt vile and ſcandalous Methods, and indeed ſuch as were even beneath the very Dregs of the People: Implacable and revengeful, envious of his Superiors, haughty to his Equals, diſtruſtful of his Friends, and intolerably inſolent to all below him; and of ſo inconſtant a Diſpoſition, that he was elated to the laſt Degree in Proſperity, but the moſt abject, ſervile Creature in the World at the leaſt Approach of Adverſity. However, with all theſe Faults about him, being of a ſly, inſinuating Temper, he ſo entirely riveted himſelf into

the King's Affections, that he engroſſed his whole Ear, and by that means obtained every thing he deſired or wiſhed for.

A Subject that is too far exalted, and has none to queſtion or contradict him, conſiders not the Juſtice, but the Means to preſerve himſelf, by which the King's Judgment is arraigned, whilſt he is robbed of the Hearts of his People. The greater the Height, the ſtronger is the Working to maintain it; which ſeldom goes alone, but is generally accompanied with thoſe State-Actions of Impiety and Injuſtice, which draws

with

with it ſuch a perpetual Envy and Hatred, that it of Neceſſity leads him headlong to a fatal and diſhonourable Concluſion.

AND here, I hope, it will not be altogether amiſs in a few Words to give ſome Account of the unhappy End of EDWARD, occaſioned by the perniciousCounſels and deteſtableActions of his beloved Minion GAVESTON. Many ways were attempted to take away his Life, after they had firſt deprived him of his Crown and Liberty. Firſt, they vexed him in his Diet, allowing him nothing that he could well endure to eat; but this ſuc-

ceeded

ceeded not; then they lodged him in a Chamber over Carrion and dead Carcasses, enough to have killed him with the Stench; and indeed he told a Workman at his Window, that he never endured so great a Misery in his Life: but neither did this take Effect. Then they attempted it by Poisons; but whether by the Strength of his Constitution, or by the divine Providence, it prevailed not. At last the wicked Bishop of HEREFORD devised a Letter to his Keepers Sir THOMAS GOURNEY, and Sir JOHN MATTREVERS, blaming them for giving him too much Liberty, and for not doing the Service

which

which was expected from them; and in the End of his Letter wrote this Line,

Edvardum occidere nollite timere bonum est;

Craftily contriving it in this doubtful Sense, that both the Keepers might have sufficient Warrant, and he himself an Excuse. The Keepers guessing at the Meaning, took it in the worst Sense, and accordingly put it in Execution. They heated an Iron red hot, and through a Pipe thrust it up his Fundament, that no Marks of Violence might be seen. But though

none

none were apparent, yet when they were committing the Fact he was heard to roar all the Castle over.

THIS was the lamentable End of KING EDWARD of *Carnarvon*, who was Son and Father to two of the most glorious Kings that ever held the Monarchy of the ENGLISH NATION.

THE LIFE and DEATH OF *PIERCE GAVESTON*, &c.

EDWARD the Second, born at *Carnarvon*, was immediately after the Death of *Edward* the Firſt, crowned King of *England:* Who, when he mounted the Throne, was in his twenty-third Year. His proportionable Stature, good Mien, and majeſtick Preſence, joined to the Advantage of being born of a Father ſo univerſaily eſteemed, gave the *Engliſh* extraordinary Hopes.

AS never Prince came to the Crown in more favourable Circumſtances, ſo never was Prince received with more general Joy. But though this Prince's outward Appearance carried in it many promiſing Pre-

 dictions

dictions of ſingular Expectation, yet Time diſcovered him to the World, in Converſation light, in Will violent, in Temper proud and haughty, and in Paſſion raſh and irreconcileable.

THIS Prince's firſt Step, a few Days after the Death of his Father, blaſted all theſe agreeable Hopes, and turned the Nation's Joy into Mourning. He had ſcarcely done the laſt Offices to the great Prince to whom he owed his Birth, when forgetting his Oath concerning the perpetual Exile of *Pierce Gaveſton*, he recalled that *Favourite*. He hardly ſtayed ſo much as for his Return, to make him in an Inſtant the richeſt Man in the Kingdom.

IN the very Beginning of his Reign, he created him Earl of *Cornwal*, and gave him the Lands fallen to the Crown by the Death of the late Earl, Son of *Richard* King of the *Romans*; to which he alſo annexed the Caſtle and Lordſhip of *Wallingford*. His

Impatience

Impatience to load with Favonrs a Man, who had been just driven from him, as the Corrupter of his Youth, plainly discovered to what Height his Passion was grown, and how much the Consequences were to be feared. But not content to begin his Reign with the Breach of his late Oath to the King his Father, in recalling a *Minion* justly despised by all the World; he even loaded him with Benefits, and immediately on his Return, made him a Present of the *Isle of Man.*

THE *English* Lords could not see, without extreme Grief, such a one as *Gaveston* dispose at pleasure of all the Offices of the Kingdom, and become absolute Master of the Administration of Affairs, which the King entirely left to his Management. It seemed that *Edward* only desired to be King, to have it more in his Power to shower down his Favours upon *Gaveston.* Wholly intent upon pleasing him, (as a Lover his Mistress) he concerned himself no other way, than to

deviſe every day new Methods to procure him Satisfaction. In ſhort, ſo infatuated was he, by giving up himſelf entirely to his ſole Guidance, that he let him act as King, whilſt he himſelf gloried in being his Subject or Slave.

WHEN once a King is ſo given over to Senſuality, that the neceſſary Cares of a Kingdom ſeem burthenſome, and for that Reaſon, aſſigned over to another; he then becomes by his own Indiſcretion no more a King, but at ſecond Hand and by Direction. It is the *Practick*, and not the *Theorick* Act of State that awes and aſſures the Heart of the Subject, which being once doubted or even ſuſpected, immediately eſtranges our Obedience, and ſtamps an Appearance of Liberty on the Actions of Diſorder and Injuſtice.

GAVESTON applies himſelf wholly to the Humour of the King, and makes each Word that falls from him an Oracle:

Their

Their Affections go hand in hand together; and the apparent Injuſtice of the one never found Contradiction in the other. If the Diſcourſe were War, he extolled it as an *Heroick Virtue*; if Peace, he maintained it not more uſeful than neceſſary: Unlawful Pleaſures he ſtiled a noble Recreation, and unjuſt Actions, the proper and agreeable Fruits of an abſolute Monarchy. Theſe Gloſſes ſo betray the willing Ear that heard them, that no Honour is thought good and great enough for the Reporter. The greateſt Commands and Offices are in the Perſon and Diſpoſure of *Gaveſton*. The Command of War, and all Proviſions Foreign and Domeſtick, are committed ſolely to his Care. All Treaties for Peace or War had their Succeſs or Ruin by his Direction and Pleaſure. The King ſigned no Diſpatch publick or private, but by his Conſent and Appointment. Nor was it enough to advance him beyond his Deſert, or the Rules of a modeſt Proportion, but his Power was made more extenſive in the Commitment to the *Tower*

of

of the Bishop of *Litchfield*, with whom he quarrelled as the Occasion of his Banishment.

AS *Gaveston* was of a debauched and vicious Mind, so was he of a graceful and amiable Body; he had an agreeable Face without any Defect; his Shape fine and easy; his Air noble and grand; and in all bodily Exercises he was distinguished for his extraordinary Address. One could not help admiring his Wit, and those sharp and quick Repartees, peculiar to the *Gascoons*, amongst whom he was born. If he had been less beloved by the King, he would have made a more lasting, tho' not so considerable a Fortune. But the Affection of his Prince inspired him with a Pride which proved his Destruction.

HE would govern the State with an absolute Sway, without sharing his Power with any Person whatever; hardly vouchsafeing so much as to use the King's Name.

His

His external Accompliſhments, which ſhone with great Luſtre, rendered him ſo proud and inſolent, that he thought himſelf above all the Great Men; tho' by his Vices and Enormities he degraded himſelf below the very meaneſt. The chief means he uſed to gain *Edward*'s Affections, was a blind Condeſcenſion to his Deſires, without examining whether they were virtuous or vicious. When once he came to have an abſolute Influence over him, his only Care was to indulge him in every Pleaſure to which that Prince was addicted. What then could be expected from the ſtrict Union of two ſuch Perſons, but a ſcandalous Licentiouſneſs at Court, and an entire Decay of the Publick Affairs? An unexperienced and mean-ſpirited *Miniſter*, who minded nothing but Trifles, Diverſions, Banquets, and ſome ſtill leſs innocent Pleaſures, was little capable of governing ſo large a Kingdom. It was not long before the Nation experienced the fatal Effects of ſo ill a Choice.

FOR

FOR what leſs than a ſubſequent Ruin can be expected, when a King to ſatisfy his own inordinate Paſſions, conſents to the unjuſt Oppreſſions of his Subjects, tyrannizes over the Nobility, and loſes all fatherly Care of the Kingdom, and that Iſſue that was to ſucceed him? Certainly it is no leſs honourable than neceſſary for the Majeſty and Grandeur of a King, to have the ſame free and full Uſe of his Favours and Affection, that each particular Man enjoys in his own Oeconomick Government; yet as his Station is the greateſt, ſuch ſhould be his Care alſo, to ſquare them by the ſacred Rules of Equity and Juſtice; for if they once exceed and fall into an Extremity, they are then Predictions of a fatal and inevitable Ruin. Let the *Favourite* taſte the King's Bounty, and enjoy his Ear, but let him not engroſs it wholly, or take upon him the Government of all his Maſter's Affairs: This will not only beget Envy, but innumerable Errors alſo, whoſe Effects

generally

generally occaſion a deſperate Convulſion, if not the Deſtruction of that State where it is countenanced and practiſed. As Kings ought to limit their Favours, ſo ought they to be very circumſpect in their Choice; for where Perſons of a baſe or mean Quality are exalted to ſuch a dangerous Height, they are ever accompanied with perpetual Murmur and Hatred.

NEITHER is it ſafe or proper, that all the principal Dignities, or Strength of a Kingdom ſhould be committed to the Care or Fidelity of any one particular Subject, though never ſo able or great. There muſt be then a kind of impulſive Neceſſity ſtill to continue his Power, and approve his Actions, as having the Keys of the Kingdom in his own Hands, when he may at any time open the Gates to a Foreign Invaſion, or a Domeſtick War.

THE Beginning of *Edward*'s Reign being very unpromiſing, the chief Lords

 thought

thought of means to ſtop the Impetuoſity of their Prince, and curb his capricious Temper. But theſe Thoughts were interrupted by the Celebration of his Nuptials with *Iſabella* of *France*, Daughter of *Philip the Fair*, at *Boulogne*. Never was Wedding more magnificent. There were preſent four Kings and four Queens, beſides a great number of Princes and Princeſſes, Lords and Ladies, who made the moſt numerous Aſſembly of Nobles, that had been ſeen a great while.

THOUGH the King's Voyage was very ſhort, it fail'd not to produce ill Effects. Upon leaving *England*, he was weak enough to appoint his Favourite *Gaveſton* Guardian of the Realm, with Power to diſpoſe of all vacant Places and Benefices, Wardſhips of young Nobles, and in ſhort, to act in all things with an unlimited Authority. So many Favours added to the great Preſents he had made him before, rouz'd the Jealouſy of the *Barons*. They carried

carried their Reſentment ſo far, that they combined together to hinder the King's Coronation, the Day whereof was now fixed. *Edward* not being able to break ſo powerful a League, where almoſt all the Lords of the Realm were concerned, choſe to prevent the Conſequences by fair means. He gave his Word to the *Barons*, that in the next Parliament, he would grant whatever they could reaſonably deſire. This Promiſe ſatisfied them for the preſent. But they were extremely troubled to ſee *Gaveſton* commiſſioned to carry the Crown of St. *Edward*, with which the King was to be crowned; an Honour that by ancient Cuſtom belong'd to the Princes of the Blood. This Preference provoked the Lords to the laſt Degree againſt the *Favourite*, and withal fill'd them with Indignation againſt the King, who ſeemed to glory in his Fondneſs for a Man odious to the whole Nation.

THE Solemnity was no ſooner over, but *Edward* forgot his Promiſe to the Lords.

He ſtill continued his extraordinary Favour to *Gaveſton*, and left him as before, abſolute Maſter of his own, and the Kingdom's Affairs. *Gaveſton* for his part, far from endeavouring to allay the impending Storm, affected to govern with an Arbitrary Power, without vouchſafeing to aſk any Man's Advice; he uſed his Influence over his *Maſter*, to divert him from the Thoughts of proſecuting the War with *Scotland*, which the King his Father had ſo earneſtly enjoined him, and whereof his Subjects ſo impatiently waited the Iſſue, in order to be eaſed of an exceſſive Burden they then laboured under. Inſtead of inſpiring the King with the Love of Glory and Virtue, he filled the Court with *Libertines*, *Buffoons*, and *Paraſites*, and the like pernicious Inſtruments, proper to corrupt his Inclinations, which were but too bad before. To this he added the ridiculous Vanity of affecting to wear the King's *Jewels*, and even the *Crown*, all which *Edward* freely permitted. The King's Weakneſs grew to that Height, that

he

he was heard to ſay, If his Power was equal to his Affection, he would ſet the Crown upon *Gaveſton*'s Head. As that was not practicable, he would at leaſt raiſe him as near the Throne as poſſible, by giving him his Niece, Siſter to the Earl of *Glocester*, in Marriage.

EVERY freſh Favour granted to *Gaveſton* by the King, encreaſed the Hatred of the Lords. Scarcely would an *Engliſhman*, raiſed to ſo high a Station, have been endured, much leſs a private *Gaſcoon*, without any other Merit to recommend him, than an handſome Face, an eaſy Shape, and a ſprightly Wit, agreeable enough in Converſation, but highly improper to govern a State. They plainly ſaw it was in vain to preſs the King to part with this *Favourite*, and that he would never conſent to their Requeſt, unleſs he was forced. In this Belief, inſtead of amuſing themſelves with perſuading *Edward*, by Reaſons, which would have been ineffectual, they laboured

to

to draw into their League the Members of the Parliament, which was to meet ſoon aſter.

BY the Management of the Lords, *Gaveſton*'s Baniſhment became the chief, or rather the ſole Buſineſs of the Seſſion. The two Houſes being united in the ſame Deſign, demanded of the King, in ſo ſtrong and poſitive a manner, that *Gaveſton* ſhould be baniſhed, that he durſt not oppoſe it. He was afraid his Refuſal would deprive him of the Aids he expected, for the Continuation of the War with *Scotland*, and might poſſibly have dreaded ſomething worſe. Therefore without any fruitleſs Diſputes, he order'd Letters Patent to be drawn up, promiſing to cauſe *Gaveſton* to depart the Realm in a limited Time: But inſtead of acting ſo, as to give Room to believe he deſigned to perform his Promiſe, he every day heaped new Favours on *Gaveſton*. Soon after his Engagement he made him a Grant of three thouſand Marks a Year in Land. This Pro-

ceeding

ceeding clearly ſhewing, he was by no Means reſolved to part with his *Favourite*; the Arch-Biſhop of *Canterbury*, who had entered into the Barons League, though he lay under great Obligations to the King, excommunicated *Gaveſton*, in caſe he did not leave the Realm by the Time preſcribed him. *Edward*, little regarding this Cenſure, only intreated the Pope to annul it. At the ſame time, he wrote to the King of *France* his Brother-in-law, to deſire him to procure an Agreement between him and the Barons, and ſo to manage, as he might ſtill keep his Darling *Gaveſton*.

THESE Meaſures were neither juſt nor reaſonable enough. The Lords finding the appointed Time for *Gaveſton*'s Departure drew nigh, were ſo urgent with the King to oblige him to keep his Word, that he could not by any means avoid it: However, in performing his Promiſe, he found Means to give his *Favourite* a freſh Mark of his Affection, by making him Governor of *Ireland*,

land, with a very extenſive Authority. This Removal, however honourable it was, fail'd not to give ſome Satisfaction to the Lords, who hoped to take Advantage of his Abſence to ruin him; but he himſelf was not at all pleaſed: Beſides, that this Change from *England* to *Ireland*, appeared to him very diſadvantageous; he was ſenſible his Abſence from Court, could not but prove fatal to him. As he was abſolute Maſter of the King: hardly was he arrived in *Ireland*, when he cauſed himſelf to be recalled, under Pretence of aſſiſting at a Tournament to be held at *Wallingford*. The Magnificence wherewith he appeared on this Occaſion, and the great Number of *Foreigners* that attended him, and ſerved him for Guards, greatly increaſed the Jealouſy of the Lords, who ſaw themſelves thus braved. To this kind of Inſult he added the Indiſcretion of paſſing bitter Jeſts on ſeveral of the Nobility, which would have induced them to be revenged, even though they had no other Reaſon to complain. The Lords ſeeing themſelves in-

ſulted

ſulted in this ſcandalous manner by the *Favourite*, and deceived by the King, met together to concert Means to oblige *Edward* to keep his Word. Quickly after they preſented a Petition to him, ſetting forth, That the State and his own Houſhold were ſo ill managed, that it was abſolutely neceſſary to find Means to prevent the Conſequences of this Diſorder. They added, the only proper Method, as they thought, was, for the King to leave to certain Lords appointed by the then ſitting Parliament, the Care of making a Regulation for the well-governing the Kingdom, and his own Domeſtick Affairs. *Edward* had already ſhewn great Signs of Weakneſs, in his Regard for their former Demands. He had thereby made them ſenſible, that if, for the future, they ſhewed any ſort of Reſolution, he would not have the Courage to reſiſt them. They were not miſtaken in their Conjectures. This Prince, as timorous on certain Occaſions, as he was proud and haughty on others, was incapable of diſcerning when he ſhould give

way, and when ſtand his Ground. Accordingly, he took preciſely the contrary to what he ſhould have done. Inſtead of complying with the Barons, when they firſt petitioned for *Gaveſton*'s Removal, he obſtinately perſiſted in retaining him againſt all the Rules of Policy: Afterwards, far from oppoſing to the utmoſt of his Power, the Motion of placing the Government in other Hands than his own, and inſtead of running all Hazards, rather than give his Conſent, he believed it expedient to yield to their Importunity; without conſidering the Conſquence of a Condeſcention ſo pernicious to his Authority and Quiet, he permitted the Parliament to chuſe ſeven Biſhops, eight Earls, and ſix Barons, to make the propoſed Regulation.

IN conſequence of the King's Conſent, the Lords having finiſhed the Regulation, preſented the Plan to the King, who approved it, and gave them Power to cauſe it to be obſerved for one Year. It contained

but

but ſix Articles, the two principal of which were; *That the King ſhould not diſpoſe of any Part of his Revenues; which ſhould be for the future expended in paying his Debts, and maintaining his Houſhold, that he might live on his own Income, without taking any thing from others: That the great Charter ſhould be punctually kept; and in caſe any Article ſhould be obſcure or doubtful, it ſhould belong to the Lords elected to explain it.* There was nothing inſerted concerning *Gaveſton*'s Baniſhment. Probably they were of Opinion there was no Danger from that *Favourite*, ſo long as the Government was in their Hands: Nevertheleſs, when they afterwards ſaw the King continue to heap Favours on him, and without asking their Advice, had made him Governour of *Nottingham*, and Warden of the Foreſts on this Side the *Trent*, they drew up one and forty new Articles, to which the King was forced to conſent. By one of theſe Articles, *Gaveſton* was expreſly ſentenced to perpetual Baniſhment.

EDWARD having thus suffered himself to be bound with Fetters, which he could not shake off, resolved, though with extreme Regret, to part with *Gaveston*. However, to save him the Shame of being banished, he gave him an imaginary Commission to levy Troops in *Guienne*, for the Assistance of the Earl of *Foix*, who had been at Variance with the Court of *France*, but the Dispute was now at an end.

GAVESTON's Banishment was of no long Continuance: *Edward*, who could not live without him, disregarding the Articles he had lately signed, recalled him, without acquainting the Lords. Shortly after he sent circular Letters to the Sheriffs, to give them notice thereof; and to justify what he had done, he told them, that being bound by his Coronation-Oath, to see the Laws of the Realm put in Execution, there was no Authority could absolve him therefrom: That *Gaveston* being banished by a notorious Violence, and without a legal

gal Sentence, he could not deprive him of the Benefit of the Law, to which all his Subjects were entitled. That therefore he had caused him to return into the Kingdom, not with Design to screen him from Justice, but that he might be tried according to the usual Form: That in the mean time, he considered him as a good and faithful Subject, and ordered them to publish this Declaration in their respective Jurisdictions.

'TIS a natural Maxim, that he who commits things dishonest and unjust in themselves, is not ashamed to justify and maintain them. This last Act of the King's made him more Enemies than he had Friends: For Monarchs who once falsify their Faith, more by their own corrupt Inclinations or precipitate Will, than any necessary Impulsion, grow infamous to Foreign Nations, and fearful or suspected to their Subjects. He that is guilty of a willful ill Action, and justifies it, makes it evident he has gained an Habit of doing so,

and

and a daring Imprudence to maintain it by the Protection, of which he believes all things in a politick Wisdom lawful. This Position may for a time flatter the Professor, but it perpetually ends with Infamy: For as Virtue is the Road to Perfection, so is the Corruption of a false Heart the true Path to a certain and unpitied Ruin.

THE Lords were not much displeased that the King, by this Proceeding, had furnished them with a Pretence to compleat the Ruin of a *Favourite*, who could not be torn from him without Violence. In order to open a Way to their End, they endeavoured to gain the People by exclaiming against the King's Conduct. They said publickly, there was no depending upon what was enacted by the Parliament, since the King disregarded it. That it was easy to see, the King was aiming at an Arbitrary Power, and the whole Nation was equally concerned to oppose the Growth of a Despotick Power, which tended to render the

Subjects ſo many Slaves. Theſe Diſcourſes being ſupported by their Emiſſaries among the People, began to create an univerſal Diſcontent, of which the King had but too much Reaſon to dread the Conſequences. He imagined, he ſhould be able to prevent them by publiſhing a Proclamation, proteſting it was his Intention to obſerve the One and Forty Articles. But as he had violated one of the Principal in recalling his *Favourite*, his Proteſtation produced no Effect.

MEAN time, *Gaveſton*, ſtill more indiſcreet than his Maſter, inſtead of appeaſing his Enemies by his modeſt Behaviour, daily grew more proud and arrogant, and conſequently more odious to the Kingdom in general. He acted as if he had nothing to fear, or was ignorant of the Barons Deſigns. He had even the Boldneſs to ſpeak inſolently to the Queen; who not being able to obtain any Satisfaction, complain'd bitterly to the King her Father. She told

him

him that *Gaveſton* was the Cauſe of her Misfortunes, and the King her Huſband's Fondneſs for that unworthy *Favourite*, alienated his Affections from her, and made him an entire Stranger to her Bed. This Complaint has made ſome ſuſpect, and not without ſome Reaſon, that the Familiarity between the King and *Gaveſton* was of a very criminal Nature.

ALL this while the Barons kept their firſt Deſign in view. There were among them Perſons of extraordinary Abilities, who knew how dangerous it is, on thoſe Occaſions, to act by halves; and that if ſuch ſort of Enterprizes are not brought to an Iſſue, they ſeldom fail to ruin the Authors. The Earl of *Lincoln* was one of the moſt conſiderable of the Party, as well for his Birth and high Offices, as for his Age and Experience. As he was confined to his Bed by a Fit of Sickneſs, which in all Appearance would lay him in his Grave, he was apprehenſive, that after his Death the

Confederates

Confederates would give way, and was willing to endeavour to prevent that Accident, which would inevitably have occasioned their Ruin. To that End, having sent for his Son-in-Law the Earl of *Lancaster*, Grandson of *Henry* III, " he conjured him in the " strongest and most moving Terms, not " to abandon the *Church* and *People* of *Eng-* " *land* to the Mercy of *Popes* and *Kings*; " he told him, his Birth obliged him to " endeavour to free the Kingdom from the " Oppressions it unfortunately laboured un- " der. He charged him always to have a " great Regard for the King: But withal, " he added, that his Regard ought not to " hinder him from doing all that lay in his " Power, to remove from the King's Per- " son all *Foreigners* and *Court Favourites*. " That Honour, Conscience, the Publick " Good, call'd upon him to procure the " Observance of the *Great Charter*, the " only Basis of the Welfare and Peace of the " Kingdom. In Conclusion, he advised " him to join heartily with the Earl of

" *Warwick*, who, among all the Confede-
" rate Lords, was beſt able to carry on the
" important Undertaking." It was not long before the Effects of this Advice were ſeen. The Earl of *Lancaſter* entering into a ſtrict Confederacy with the Earls of *Warwick*, *Pembroke*, *Arundel*, *Hereford*, *Warren*, the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, and ſeveral other Biſhops and Barons, they unanimouſly reſolved to take Arms, under the uſual Pretence of defending the Rights of the *Church* and *State*.

THE Earl of *Lancaſter* was choſen General of the intended Army, an Honour which could not be refuſed to his Merit, tho' no regard had been had to his Quality. Immediately after this Reſolution was taken, all the Confederate Barons diſperſing themſelves into the ſeveral Counties, publickly levied Troops. They uſed ſuch Expedition, that in a ſhort time their Forces were aſſembled at the appointed Rendezvous. It was impoſſible for the King to be ignorant of

theſe

theſe Preparations; and yet, as if he was unconcerned, he took no notice of them. Inſtead of thinking of means to ſatisfy the incenſed Barons, or to defend himſelf againſt their Inſults, he cared for nothing ſo much as his Diverſions at *York*, where he was then with *Gaveſton*.

HIS only Study was to heap new Favours on his *Minion*, remaining in a ſurprizing Indolence, whilſt he ſaw the whole Kingdom ready to riſe againſt him. He ſeemed to affect continually to act contrary to his real Intereſts, and to neglect to take ſuch Meaſures, as a Perſon of an ordinary Underſtanding might have pointed out to him. At the very time that he ſaw the Barons in Arms, to compel him to obſerve the one and forty Articles, he wilfully violated one of the principal, in making the Biſhop of *Litchfield* High-Treaſurer without the Conſent of the Lords. But this was not the only Error he committed on this Occaſion. As if he had been in a Con-

dition to give Laws to the Barons, he would have reformed, at the ſame time, the Regulation, on pretence he had reſerved to himſelf the Power of correcting, with the Advice of the Lords, ſome Articles prejudicial to his Prerogative. It was eaſy to ſee this was no proper Seaſon for that Work; and yet he nominated on his part Commiſſioners to ſet about the Alterations.

THE Barons had then other Deſigns. After drawing all their Forces together, they marched directly for *York*, thinking to ſurprize the King, whoſe Supineneſs gave them room to hope every thing. But upon the firſt Notice of their Approach, he retired to *Newcaſtle*, where they followed him without loſs of time. That Town not ſeeming to him ſtrong enough, he left it and ſhut himſelf up in *Scarborough* Caſtle, which he deem'd his beſt Fortreſs in the *North*. He began then to ſee his Error, in deferring ſo long to prepare for his Defence; but it was now too late to think of it. However, in

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ſpite of the Improbability of ſucceeding, he reſolved to go into *Warwickſhire*; where he expected to raiſe an Army, upon the vain Hopes, that the People would flock in Crouds to liſt under his Banner. But as he was under greater Concern for *Gaveſton* than himſelf, he left him behind at *Scarborough*, recommending him to the Care of the Governor as a precious Truſt, and a ſure Pledge of the Confidence he placed in him.

WHILST *Edward* was taking his too late Meaſures, the Barons, who enter'd *Newcaſtle* the very day he departed, ſeized whatever was left there by the King and his *Favourite*, their haſte not permitting them to carry any thing away. In *Gaveſton*'s Baggage were found many Jewels belonging to the Crown, and of which an exact Inventory was taken, that an After-Account might be given of them. And as ſoon as the Earl of *Lancaſter* was informed of the King's Departure from *Scarborough*, and his leaving *Gaveſton* there, he ſent the Earls of

Pembroke

Pembroke and *Warren* to beſiege that Caſtle. At the ſame time, he marched himſelf with the reſt of the Army towards the Centre of the Kingdom, in order to have it more in his Power to oppoſe the Deſigns of the King. The two detached Earls advancing towards *Scarborough* without any Oppoſition, formed the Siege, and carried it on with great Vigour: Though the Place was one of the ſtrongeſt in the Kingdom, it was ſo ill provided with Neceſſaries for its Defence, that in a few Days *Gaveſton* was under a Neceſſity to deliver himſelf into the Hands of his Enemies. He obtained however, a ſort of Capitulation, whereby it was promiſed him, that he ſhould ſpeak with the King, and be tried by his *Peers*, according to the uſual Form.

AS ſoon as *Edward* heard of his *Favourite*'s being thus taken, he earneſtly ſollicited his Liberty, or that at leaſt he might ſee and ſpeak with him according to Promiſe. Above all, he conjured the Confede-

rate

rate Lords to ſpare the Priſoner's Life, aſſuring them, on that Condition, he would give them entire Satisfaction concerning their *Grievances.* Moſt of the Barons were againſt carrying *Gaveſton* to the King, well knowing that his Requeſt tended only to get him out of their Hands: But they conſented at laſt, upon the Earl of *Pembroke*'s repreſenting, that having given his Word in the Name of all the *Confederates*, they were obliged to perform it: That if they would truſt him with conducting him, he would undertake to convey him to the King, and to reſtore him to them at a Day and Place appointed.

PEMBROKE deſigned to conduct his Priſoner to *Wallingford* Caſtle, where the King was to come and ſpeak to him. Accordingly, taking the Road to *Oxfordſhire*, he came to *Deddington*, where he left *Gaveſton* under a Guard, whilſt he himſelf went and lodged in a neighbouring Caſtle. He did not think it neceſſary to uſe greater

Precaution

Precaution in a Place where the King had no Troops, and where consequently there was no Danger from him; but he found he had taken his Measures very ill. The Earl of *Warwick*, who was most violently against this Interview of the King and *Gaveston*, hearing how they were quartered, came that Night to the House where *Gaveston* lay, carried him away by Force, and conducted him to *Warwick*. He was now in the Power of those, from whom he had no cause to expect Protection or Mercy; and of those, whom in his Height of Greatness he had too much despised and abused. They are now resolved to make short and sure Work, unwilling to receive a Command to the contrary, which they will not obey, though it should come from him to whom they had sworn Obedience.

GAVESTON's Greatness had won him innumerable Persons who professed themselves his undoubted Friends, but they were so to his Fortune, not to him; who seeing

ſeeing the Seaſon changed, betake themſelves to a warmer Climate; and, the certain Curſe of every evil great Man, like ſo many Rats they now forſook the Houſe when they beheld it falling. Thus forſaken, unpitied, ſcorned, and hated, he falls under the Hands of Juſtice: For the next Morning at *Gaverſeed*, the ſame Earl with ſome others the moſt violent of the Party, after a quick Trial, ordered his Head to be ſtruck off.

THUS fell that *glorious Minion* of *Edward* the Second, who for a time appeared like a Blazing-Comet, and ſwayed the Juriſdiction of the State of *England*. He, like all others in his high Station, never remembered in the Smiles and Embraces of his lovely Miſtreſs, that ſhe was blind, nor procured himſelf ſuch a Refuge, as might have ſheltered him when ſhe ſhould prove inconſtant. Such a careful and neceſſary Proviſion againſt any Accident, had made his End as famous, as his Beginning was fortunate.

THE King's Sorrow at this unexampled Act of Boldneſs, is as infinite as hopeleſs; his Paſſion tranſported him beyond all Bounds. He vows a ſevere Revenge, though it was not immediately in his power to execute it. The Lords that were moſt in his Intereſt and Favour endeavour to ſooth him in the mildeſt Terms. They gently laid before him *Gaveſton*'s Contempt and abuſive Behaviour to his Nobles, and unparallell'd Inſolence to all his Subjects in general; his Honour beyond his Birth, and Wealth above his Merit. That as he fortunately obtained his Majeſty's Love and Affection in an Extraordinary Degree, he ſhould have made the ſame Virtue or Means that raiſed him to ſo great a Height, the Support of ſo uncommon an Advantage; always comporting himſelf in a manner agreeable both to his Equals and Inferiors: but his manifeſt Abuſe of the innumerable Favours he enjoyed, occaſioned the Loſs of his Life and Honour, which muſt to future

Ages

Ages give a juſt Cauſe to approve the Barons Actions and his deſerved Fortune. But the leaſt Touch on his Memory added more to the King's Affliction, who was abſolutely determined never to forget or forgive ſo bold a Treſpaſs; which unhappy Reſolution was afterwards the Cauſe of unſpeakable Troubles both to himſelf and Kingdom, and in fine the Loſs of his Crown and Life.

FINIS.